



15 November 2024

F Mackenzie

By email: [fyi-request-28639-2942b835@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28639-2942b835@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe F Mackenzie

### **Official information request regarding Yael Holan guest lecture**

We refer to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 3 October 2024:

*“I am writing to request any and all correspondence or documents pertaining to the invitation of the Israeli Embassy’s Deputy Chief of Mission Yael Holan to guest lecture in the course INTP248 on Tuesday, October 1st, 2024. Please include:*

- Correspondence within the department about the guest lecture invitation*
- Correspondence with other parts of the University (eg. senior leadership) about the guest lecture*
- Correspondence to the Israeli Embassy pertaining to this course*
- Briefing given to Yael Holan about her guest lecture*
- Any information that can be provided about future guest lectures for this course*
- Any other information or correspondence mentioning Yael Holan or the Israeli Embassy in relation to INPT248 going back 1 year.”*

International Security (INTP 248) is an introductory course to the study of conflict and security offered by the School of History, Philosophy, Political Science, and International Relations. The course examines how and why conflict emerges in the international system and explores different approaches to its mitigation and resolution, using both traditional materialist theories of security and alternative critical approaches to security. As stated in the [course description](#), one of the main learning objectives of this course is for students to gain a good understanding of the debates about the causes of conflict, along with a good grasp of the different theoretical perspectives on conflict and how these perspectives impact approaches to conflict in world politics.

In trimester 2 of this year, INTP 248 was taught by Senior Lecturer Dr. Iati Iati, who invited guest lecturers to help achieve the previously mentioned learning objectives. Guest lectures on the Israel-Palestine topic this trimester was delivered first by Palestinian Professor Mazin Qumsiyeh from Bethlehem University on 26 September 2024, followed by Ms. Yael Holan, First Secretary at the Embassy of Israel in New

Zealand on 1 October 2024. Both lectures were delivered online and recorded for student learning.

There has been no specific communication within the department regarding Ms. Holan's guest lecture, aside from Dr. Iati's email exchanges with tutors. These email exchanges are withheld to protect the privacy of natural persons (s9(2)(a)). There has been no communication with other University departments or senior leadership regarding this guest lecture, nor any correspondence with the Embassy of Israel in Wellington aside from the correspondence between Dr. Iati and Ms. Holan.

There are no further guest lectures scheduled for the year as the course has finished. INTP 248 is currently on offer for Trimester 1 of 2025. However, we are unable to provide details about future guest lectures for this course, as it may be taught by a different lecturer next year. Therefore, these aspects of your request are refused in accordance with s18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

Dr. Iati's communications with Ms. Holan and a recording of the lecture is withheld for the following reasons:

- Not to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand (s6(a));
- Not to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government (s6(a)(ii));
- To protect the privacy of natural persons (s9(2)(a)); and
- To protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied (s9(2)(ba)(i)).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions made regarding this request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact us at [oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz).

Ngā mihi nui

Legal Services

**Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington**